

month after graduating from Greater Cleveland Christian High School in May 2003, Corporal Ruiz enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served with dedication and honor. In February 2004, he left for first tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Ruiz left for his second tour of duty on July 4, 2005.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lance Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, brothers and sisters, grandmother, extended family members and many friends. Integrity, kindness, unwavering service to others and endless heart defined his young life and his spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew and loved him best—his family and friends. Corporal Ruiz's courageous life and legacy of service will be forever honored and remembered by the Cleveland community and by our entire nation.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID HENSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. David Henson of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. Henson grew up in Orlando, Florida. He attended Florida A&M University where he received a B.S. degree in Biology in 1961. In 1968, he earned a M.Sc.Ed. degree in Chemistry from Tuskegee University. In 1972, Dr. Henson received his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa.

For more than two decades Dr. Henson made significant contributions to the field of higher education. Most notably, he was the Acting Chairperson, Department of Biochemistry, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Howard University College of Medicine; Dean of Student Affairs, Associate Dean of Yale College, Lecturer in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and Fellow in Timothy Dwight College at Yale University; Provost and Professor of Chemistry at the Broward Campus of Florida Atlantic University and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Services/Student Support Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Henson also served as President and Professor of Chemistry at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama, and as Vice President of Student Services at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. On July 2, 1997, Dr. Henson became the seventeenth President of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. Under his leadership Lincoln University experienced unprecedented growth and renewal.

Dr. Henson also was involved in the Jefferson City community. He served on the Board of Directors for the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Jefferson City Leadership Forum and the Rotary Club of Jefferson City.

Dr. Henson was a member of Sigma Xi Honorary Society, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and an Honorary Member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Organization. Dr. Henson received the "African Americans Who Make a Difference Award", the Howard University Col-

lege of Medicine Student Council's Award for "Excellence in Teaching", the George Washington Carver Research Foundation Student Award, and an American Council on Education Fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Henson was a valuable leader in his community and was respected by everyone who knew him. He will be missed by all. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING STUDENTS AT LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, I was invited to address a gathering of students and faculty at the Lake Shore Middle School, located in the town of Evans in the 27th Congressional District. In addition to having the honor of speaking to a group of very attentive and inquisitive middle school students, I was honored with a presentation of writings in a "memory folder" that I want to talk about here today.

Students in the eighth grade government class of Mr. Keith Dash, a Lake Shore teacher—and former Buffalo State College graduate school classmate of mine—asked his students to write about freedom, and about what they think about when they think of freedom and life in America. A collection of these writings was bound and presented to me at this gathering, and I wanted to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to enter these writings into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The students contributing to this project are: Joshua Allen, Kelly Carlson, Cody Catalano, Katherine Dinkuhn, Rebecca Swatsworth, Kim Vona, Kalie Weinheimer, and Jessica Westley. I am honored to have received the writings that these students have labored on for so long, and am delighted to enter each student's contribution into the RECORD, as follows:

The most important element in social studies is the U.S. government. I mean we have all these freedoms; write anything, say anything, do anything. We get a fair trial no matter what the odds are. I am trying to say there isn't any place in the world as good as the USA. In the world it is chaos. I mean wars, fights, and riots. I mean we basically are the translators of many languages like English. We are strong and I don't want it to crash.—Joshua Allen

GOVERNMENT

(By Kelly Carlson)

The United States' Constitution is the foundation of our country, what we've built our lives around. To me the most important part of it is the first Amendment in the Bill of Rights. To have freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the very concept that we, the people of America can voice our opinions, is comforting. I value this amendment because, in most countries you're not allowed opinions, let alone to share those opinions with people around you. To me, what I believe is more important to me than a lot of things.

The most important right that the Constitution gave me is the right to bear arms. My father and I are both hunters. It is im-

portant that the animal population is controlled so deer don't get hit by cars and animals don't have to fight each other for food. It is also a good source of food because we eat all the meat of our kill. The right to bear arms is definitely the most important right to me.—Cody Catalano

THE AMERICAN LIFE

We see the obvious differences between, Us and the citizens of other countries. Some are industrialized, While others are third world.

We say what we want to in Maine, We publish in California. And worship in Pennsylvania, In Texas we gather

We buy a gun in Nevada We drive through Ohio And vote in New York

Marriage and voting It's all the same In the U.S. we can do it all The constitution states our rights It says what we can do It protects us all And lets us have a view

(By Katherine Dinkuhn)

Voting is the most important to me in Democracy because it lets me have a say in the government. It also allows me to say my opinion and how I feel about my future. For example the person I feel appropriate to run for government, I would vote for. Voting may be an option but I feel that its everyones job but even better its everyones duty.—Rebecca Swatsworth

I think the most important thing in our government is our laws. This is the most important because they keep order within our community and make it a safer place to live.—Kim Vona

When I think of government, I think of the three branches, the constitution and lots of laws. To me, the most important part of the government is laws. The laws I lead my life by, the laws I follow and the laws I can look up to when I need to be pointed in the right direction. They show me right and wrong, good and bad. They let me understand our society today. They explain things like how we became a free country or how slaves became free. But most important, they hold up our society. So, when I think of our government, I think of laws.—Kalie Weinheimer

There are many important ideas in the Constitution of the United States of America. But there is a very important one that means a lot to me. I think the most important thing in the Constitution is the 15th Amendment. This amendment states that all citizens are given equal rights. This is very important to me because I think regardless of race and color all people should be equal—as the Constitution states. Just because people have a different race they should not be treated different. The Constitution protects this right. The Constitution is the guideline to the government of the United States of America. All people should put others' race and color aside. All people are created equal and should be treated equal as well. Living in America would not be as wonderful without that right. Because of this great Constitution many people came to America and this should always be a part of the United States way of life.—Jessica Westley